



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer-
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

At its meeting held September 19, 2006, the Board took the following action:

65-B

The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisors Yaroslavsky and Burke:

“The use of methamphetamine (meth) has been on the rise across the Nation, including Los Angeles County, becoming the leading drug of choice for people admitted into substance abuse treatment facilities. In 2005, the Department of Public Health’s Alcohol and Drug Program Administration surveyed County-contracted service providers and found that 33% of the providers reporting 50% or more of their clients as primary meth users.

“While the meth epidemic is present across the population, specific segments of the population have been acutely affected by meth use. According to the *Los Angeles Men’s Survey 2004* conducted by the Department of Public Health’s HIV Epidemiology Program, 72% of men who have sex with men (MSM) who used crystal meth had unprotected anal sex in the past 12 months and 26% of MSM who tested HIV-positive reported crystal meth use. Furthermore, among the Latino MSM who received a new HIV-positive diagnosis, 59% reported use of crystal meth in the past 12 months. Additional studies and anecdotal evidence suggest a strong link between meth use and high-risk sexual behaviors that may be contributing to the increase in HIV infections and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) such as syphilis, in both MSM and heterosexual communities.

“In response to the meth epidemic, the Department of Public Health convened the Methamphetamine Work Group in August 2005. This group is comprised of representatives from community service agencies, academic research centers, local cities and various County departments. The County must expand the group’s efforts in addressing the meth epidemic, as a serious public health and mental health issue.

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"We therefore move that the Board:

1. Instruct the Director of Public Health's Alcohol and Drug Program Administration, and Office of AIDS Programs and Policy, and the Director of Mental Health, to report back within 90 days on a comprehensive strategy for methamphetamine (meth) use prevention and intervention and include in the report an overview of meth use in Los Angeles County and best practices for preventing meth use and treating meth users, particularly within targeted populations, such as communities of color;
2. Instruct the County's Legislative Advocates in Sacramento to identify and support legislation that would fund and expand the County's research and prevention and treatment efforts on meth addiction; and
3. Instruct the Director of Public Health to expand the membership of the Methamphetamine Work Group to include additional advocates against crystal meth use, including community service agencies serving at-risk populations."

Mario Guerrero, Brad Leathers, Richard Zaldivar, Katie Bronson and Tim Young addressed the Board.

After discussion, on behalf of Supervisor Molina, Supervisor Yaroslavsky read into the record the following amendment to Supervisor Burke's and his recommendation:

"I move that the Board instruct the Chief Administrative Officer to work with the Directors of Public Health, Mental Health, Public Social Services, Children and Family Services, the Sheriff, and other County agencies, as appropriate, to assess all existing County contracts, services and resources dedicated to addressing the methamphetamine epidemic and report back in 90 days. This information should be incorporated in the development of the comprehensive strategy. Additionally, the comprehensive strategy should identify specific goals, objectives and outcome measures for dealing with this epidemic. This strategy should also include specific recommendation for better data collection, information exchange and coordination across county agencies and with community groups and service providers."

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65-B (Continued)

After discussion, on motion of Supervisor Burke, seconded by Supervisor Yaroslavsky, unanimously carried (Supervisors Molina and Antonovich being absent), the Board took the following actions:

1. Instructed the Director of Public Health's Alcohol and Drug Program Administration, and Office of AIDS Programs and Policy, and the Director of Mental Health, to report back within 90 days on a comprehensive strategy for methamphetamine (meth) use prevention and intervention and include in the report an overview of meth use in Los Angeles County and best practices for preventing meth use and treating meth users, particularly within targeted populations, such as communities of color;
2. Instructed the County's Legislative Advocates in Sacramento to identify and support legislation that would fund and expand the County's research and prevention and treatment efforts on meth addiction;
3. Instructed the Director of Public Health to expand the membership of the Methamphetamine Work Group to include additional advocates against crystal meth use, including community service agencies serving at-risk populations; and

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65-B (Continued)

4. Instructed the Chief Administrative Officer to work with the Directors of Public Health, Mental Health, Public Social Services, Children and Family Services, the Sheriff, and other County agencies, as appropriate, to assess all existing County contracts, services and resources dedicated to addressing the meth epidemic with the information to be incorporated in the development of the comprehensive strategy, and report back to the Board within 90 days with the comprehensive strategy to include:
 - The identification of specific goals, objectives and outcome measures for dealing with this epidemic; and
 - Specific recommendations for better data collection, information exchange and coordination across County agencies and with community groups and service providers.

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Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor
Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Director of Children and Family Services
Director of Health Services
Director of Mental Health
Director of Public Health
Director of Public Social Services
Director, Alcohol and Drug Program Administration
Director, Office of AIDS Programs and Policy

Letter sent to:

Sheriff